

Remarks

Claims 1-2 and 6-13 are currently pending. Claims 3-5 have been withdrawn from consideration in the present application. The independent claims are claims 1, 2, and 6. Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 1, and claims 7-11 depend from claim 6. Claims 1, 6, and 10-13 have been amended

Claims 1 & 12

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12 as being anticipated by Lykken et al. Applicant respectfully traverses that ground for rejection. Lykken fails to show a first wheel mounted on one end of a top tandem arm with a bottom tandem arm pivotally mounted to the opposite end of the top tandem arm. The structure the Examiner asserts as the top tandem arm (“idler wheel carriage 102”) is not pivotal, it is rigidly attached to the frame by mountings (20). Furthermore, the idler wheel carriage 102 from Lykken does not have a first wheel attached to its top portion. Therefore, claim 1, and its dependent claim 12, are not anticipated by Lykken.

Claims 6-8

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-8 as being anticipated by Gignac. Claim 6 has been amended herein to require that the first idler wheel structure and the first wheel rock about the first pivot axis in a reciprocating manner to maintain a desired distribution of weight between said first wheel and said first idler wheel structure. Gignac does not show or suggest this feature. Therefore, the rejection of claims 6-8 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, and 6-13 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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<p>I hereby certify that the document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:</p> <p>February 1, 2006</p> <p><u>Michael C. Gilchrist</u></p> <p>Michael C. Gilchrist</p>
